



PRESS RELEASE

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Cattle Inventory

Iowa: All cattle and calves in Iowa as of January 1, 2006 totaled 3.80 million head, 6 percent above the 3.60 million head on January 1, 2005. Beef cows, at 1,053,000 head, were 4 percent above last year. Milk cows, at 187,000 head, were unchanged from last year.

Overall heifer numbers were up 11 percent from last year at 890,000 head. Heifers for beef cow replacement were up 17 percent to 140,000 head; heifers for milk cow replacement at 120,000 head were 20 percent above the previous year; and all other heifers were up 9 percent to 630,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were up 8 percent from last year at 1,100,000 head. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over were unchanged from a year ago at 70,000 head. Calves under 500 pounds on January 1 totaled 500,000 head, down 2 percent from last year at 510,000 head.

The 2005 calf crop was estimated at 1.17 million head, up 6 percent from the 1.10 million head born in 2004. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2006 was 920,000 head, unchanged from one year ago.

United States: All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2006, totaled 97.1 million head, 2 percent above the 95.4 million on January 1, 2005.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.3 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2005. Beef cows, at 33.3 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Milk cows, at 9.06 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Other class estimates on January 1, 2006, and the change from January 1, 2005, are as follows: all heifers 500 pounds and over, 20.0 million, up 2 percent; beef replacement heifers, 5.90 million, up 4 percent; milk replacement heifers, 4.28 million, up 4 percent; other heifers, 9.80 million, up slightly; steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.9 million, up 3 percent; bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.26 million, up 2 percent; calves under 500 pounds, 15.6 million, up 2 percent; cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.1 million, up 3 percent. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 28.2 million, up 2 percent.

The 2005 calf crop was estimated at 37.8 million head, up 1 percent from 2004. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2004.

Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop, Iowa and United States, January 1, 2005-2006

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Cattle and Calves	3,600	3,800	106	95,438	97,102	102
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	1,200	1,240	103	41,920	42,311	101
Beef Cows	1,013	1,053	104	32,915	33,253	101
Milk Cows	187	187	100	9,005	9,058	101
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	800	890	111	19,573	19,978	102
For Beef Cow Replacement	120	140	117	5,691	5,905	104
For Milk Cow Replacement	100	120	120	4,118	4,278	104
Other Heifers	580	630	109	9,763	9,795	100
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	1,020	1,100	108	16,476	16,923	103
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	70	70	100	2,219	2,263	102
Calves Under 500 Pounds	510	500	98	15,250	15,626	102
Cattle on Feed ¹	920	920	100	13,745	14,132	103
	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
Calf Crop	1,100	1,170	106	37,505	37,780	101

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.